

**JOINT STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN
AND COMMISSIONERS MICHAEL J. COPPS, JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN,
DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE AND ROBERT M. MCDOWELL**

Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45, Order.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Simon ffitch to serve as a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and look forward to working with him in his new role.

We also want to acknowledge and thank Billy Jack Gregg for his many years of distinguished and dedicated service to the Federal-State Joint Board. Billy Jack, a tireless consumer advocate with experience in multiple facets of the industry, has been extremely valuable in dealing with universal service issues, and his commitment to providing a collegial, cooperative and productive environment was much appreciated.